

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1 and 10, and add new Claim 14, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A photovoltaic cell comprising:
a photovoltaic element; and
a coating film provided on the photovoltaic element,
wherein the photovoltaic element has an electrode portion having a
thickness larger than the average thickness of the coating film, and
a thickness of a part of the coating film which is in contact with the
electrode portion is ~~equal to or~~ smaller than the average thickness of the coating film.
2. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the
coating film comprises a thermosetting coating material, and the thermosetting coating
material before curing has a viscosity in the range of from 1 to 50 mPa s.
3. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the
average thickness of the coating film is 0.5 mm or less.
4. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the
coating film comprises a coating material containing at least an acrylic resin.
5. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 1, wherein the

coating film comprises a coating material, and the electrode portion comprises an insulating member and a conductive foil body.

6. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 5, wherein the insulating member comprises an acrylic adhesive layer.

7. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 5, wherein a part of the insulating member located at a position higher than the average thickness of the coating film has a low wettability to the coating material.

8. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 7, wherein a side surface of the insulating member comprises an agent causing the side surface of the insulating member to have a low wettability to the coating material, the side surface of the insulating member being located at a side of the electrode portion which is in contact with the coating film.

9. (Original) The photovoltaic cell according to Claim 8, wherein the insulating member includes a base plate comprising the agent.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell having a photovoltaic element and a coating film provided on the photovoltaic element, comprising:

a step of forming the coating film on a light receiving face of the photovoltaic element by applying the coating film thereon; and

a step of heating the coating film for curing while a part thereof in contact with an electrode portion of the photovoltaic element is being maintained such that it has a thickness ~~equal to or~~ smaller than the average thickness of the coating film.

11. (Original) The method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of coating a side surface of an insulating member of the electrode portion with an agent which causes the side surface of the insulating member to have a low wettability to a coating material contained in the coating film, wherein the side surface of the insulating member is located at a side of the electrode portion which is brought into contact with the coating film.

12. (Original) The method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell according to Claim 11, wherein the agent is a release agent contained in a mixed solution at a concentration of 0.1 to 30 percent.

13. (Original) The method for manufacturing a photovoltaic cell according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of forming an insulating member of the electrode portion by slitting a tape comprising a base plate, wherein the base plate and a side surface of the insulating member comprise an agent which causes the side surface of the insulating member to have a low wettability to a coating material contained in the coating film, and

wherein the side surface of the insulating member is located at a side of the electrode portion which is brought into contact with the coating film.

14. (New) A photovoltaic cell comprising:

a photovoltaic element; and

a coating film provided on the photovoltaic element,

wherein the photovoltaic element has an electrode portion having a thickness larger than the average thickness of the coating film,

a thickness of a part of the coating film which is in contact with the electrode portion is equal to or smaller than the average thickness of the coating film,

the electrode portion is provided outside of a power generation region of the photovoltaic element,

the photovoltaic element has collector electrodes on the power generation region, and

the coating film covers the power generation region and the collector electrodes.